



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D.C. 20250

SEP - 7 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor
State of California
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

This is in response to your letter of August 1, 2006; and to your letter of August 3, 2006, signed by Henry Renteria, Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, requesting a disaster designation for California counties affected by the record-setting heat wave that occurred in July 2006.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reviewed the Damage Assessment Reports (DAR), along with additional information submitted by the State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency (FSA). Based on this review, USDA has determined that there were sufficient production losses in 16 counties, to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation. Therefore, I am designating 16 California counties as primary natural disaster areas, due to the record-setting heat wave that occurred during the period of July 1, 2006, through July 31, 2006. Those counties are:

Butte	Imperial	Merced	Stanislaus
Calaveras	Kern	San Bernardino	Sutter
Fresno	Kings	Solano	Tehama
Glenn	Madera	Sonoma	Tulare

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, the following additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties:

Alameda	Marin	Plumas	Santa Clara
Alpine	Mariposa	Riverside	Shasta
Amador	Mendocino	Sacramento	Trinity
Colusa	Mono	San Benito	Tuolumne
Contra Costa	Monterey	San Diego	Ventura
Inyo	Napa	San Joaquin	Yolo
Lake	Orange	San Luis Obispo	Yuba
Los Angeles	Placer	Santa Barbara	

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At this time, USDA is unable to make an accurate and complete determination of production losses due to the disaster in five California counties. Therefore, a decision on your request for those counties will be deferred until the information becomes available for losses due to the heat wave disaster. Those counties are:

Alameda San Joaquin San Benito Sacramento Yuba

As soon as the DARs are received and the actual losses can be determined, USDA will complete the review of those five counties and a determination will be made.

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. FSA will consider each application on its own merit by taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Local FSA offices can provide affected farmers with further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Johanns', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Johanns
Secretary